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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/606,025	06/25/2003	Julia E. Moravcsik	D/A3034	3945

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EXAMINER

AUGUSTINE, NICHOLAS

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2179

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/606,025

Applicant(s)

MORAVCSIK, JULIA E.

Examiner

Nicholas Augustine

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06/25/2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by
Messinger, Frederic P. (US 2002/0154153 A1).

As for independent claim 1, Messinger teaches a method for control of an operator-controlled system by a user, comprising the steps of (col.4, lines 59-60): providing a graphical user interface (20) in a first mode of operation (fig.2, the initial display providing choices to the user of task to be selected), wherein a first control element is shown (col.6, line 1); receiving an invocation by the user representative of a request for the functionality of the first control element (col.6, lines 4-5); determining the current status condition of the control element (64); in response to an invocation of the functionality of a control element when the current status of the control element is a respective first status condition (clicked/selected from user) among a predetermined plurality of status conditions (col.7, line 5), changing the graphical user interface to a second mode of operation (showing steps to task, 82, 400 and col.7, line 8), wherein context-sensitive help information is provided in the graphical user interface (50, 410c, fig.6A and col.6, lines 45); providing a prompt (col.7, line 58 and 61, by displaying

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required information requested by the user in a series of steps) to a second control element, the second control element being operable to enable the user to select an automated procedure (automated by handled by predefined code for interpreting the users selections to give a degree of functionality to the task selected by the user) so as to change the current status of the control element to a second status in the predetermined set of status conditions (col.8, lines 35-38, being checked off and/or other graphical representations noted); in response to receiving invocation of the automated procedure, performing the automated procedure so as to cause the status of the control element to be changed to a second status condition; and in response to completion of the automated procedure, changing the graphical user interface to a third mode of operation, wherein the requested functionality (smurf detection) of the first control element is made available to the user (280 and col.8, lines 51-52; smurf detection has degree of functionality once completed through the steps hence made available).

As for dependent claim 2, Messinger teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the first status condition is an inactive control element condition (fig.9, no steps completed, not active for pertaining function – smurf detection) and the second status is an active control element condition (280, col.8, lines 35-38 and 51-52; current step was activated by user input).

As for dependent claim 3, Messinger teaches the method of claim 2, further comprising

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the steps of graphically representing the current status condition of the control element in the graphical user interface (col.11, last par. and 42b item is selected when user activates functionality with automated procedures).

As for dependent claim 4, Messinger teaches the method of claim 3, further comprising the step of providing a change in the appearance of the control element corresponding to the change from the first status condition (Fig.2 not selected, no steps, col.5, last par.) to the second status condition (Fig.13A, Col.11 last par, selected and steps displayed for helping).

As for dependent claim 5, Messinger teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising the step of altering the appearance of at least a portion of the control element to reflect the status currently set for the control element relative to the available functionality of the control element (Fig.13A, control is graphically distinguished from other controls as functionality is defined from the user; col.11, last par.).

As for dependent claim 6, Messinger teaches the method of claim 5, wherein the appearance of at least a portion of the control element is grayed-out during a status condition for the control element of inactive functionality (not highlighted, Fig.2; col.8, lines 35-38 gives an apparent use of graphical distinction for multiple uses including the present).

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As for dependent claim 7, Messinger teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the context-sensitive help indicates a basis for the first status condition of the control element (in relation to 42b selected to 50 being shown when calls graphical overlays; col.7, lines 5-15).

As for dependent claim 8, Messinger teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a third control element operable by the user for rejecting the prompt and for causing the graphical user interface to return to the first mode of operation (apparent the user could just call another task (42a) from the task list (43) as shown in 13A where block (400) is depicted with (43)).

As for dependent claim 9, Messinger teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the invocation of the functionality of the control element is performed by operation of a cursor-based input system (col.5, line 50).

As for dependent claim 10, Messinger teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the invocation of the functionality of the control element is performed by operation of a touch screen input system (col.5, line 50).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

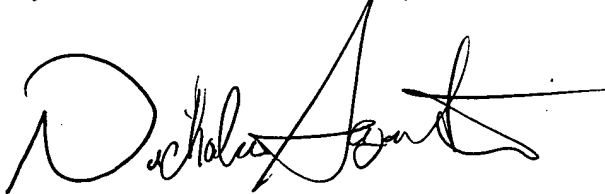
- Makinen, Bruse Allan – (US 6,928,625) – Help Dialogs
- Opheim et al. – (US-2004/0255057) – providing help information in multiple formats

Inquires

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas Augustine whose telephone number is 571-270-1056. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday: 7:30- 5:00.

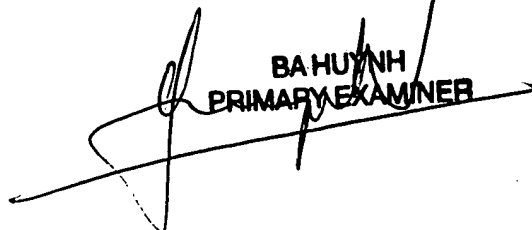
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on 571-272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



N. Augustine
10/19/2006

Nicholas Augustine
Examiner
AU: 2179



BA HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER